

DK-US040366

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| In re Application of                 | : |                       |
| Tadashi SAO et al.                   | : | Patent Art Unit: 3744 |
| Serial No.: 10/580,909               | : | Confirmation No. 6843 |
| Filed: May 30, 2006                  | : |                       |
| For: BRANCHING PIPE JOINT AND AN AIR | : |                       |
| CONDITIONER PROVIDED THEREWITH       | : |                       |

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT WITH CERTIFICATION**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In accordance with MPEP 609 and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant brings the references listed on the attached PTO-1449-Form to the Examiner's attention and request that they be considered and made of record in this application. A copy of the non-U.S. patent is attached.

I hereby certify that each item of information in the Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith was cited for the first time in any communication from a foreign patent office in any counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

*No fee is believed to be required in view of the above certification.* However, Applicants authorize the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to charge payment of the Petition fee Under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) *if required* and any other fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1836.

Japanese Utility Model Publication No. 64-28730 appears to disclose a pipe connecting device for an outdoor unit of an air conditioner having a flared pipe expansion 8 and a rotatable L-shaped pipe 7.

Serial No. 10/580,909  
Filed: May 30, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: October 2, 2008

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